

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-25 (Canceled).

Claim 26 (Currently Amended): A system Apparatus for the distribution of digitized information on demand comprising:

- (a) a local mass store for storing the digitized information;
- (b) a point of sale unit for software products including electronically-readable media carrying said digitized information, said point of sale unit being arranged to receive a request from a customer for a said software product, wherein said electronically-readable media containing contains customer-selected information, and to issue a product release request;
- (c) a remote licensing control centre arranged in response to the product release request to issue a unique release code electronically; and
- (d) a local media generator arranged to store on the electronically-readable media the customer-selected information, ~~along with~~ and the issued release code for supply to the customer.

Claim 27 (Currently Amended): A system Apparatus as claimed in claim 26 in which the release code includes a licence number; and in which there is further included a packaging generator arranged to print at least one of the licence number ~~or~~ and the customer's name, ~~or~~ both onto media packaging.

Claim 28 (Currently Amended): A system Apparatus as claimed in claim 26 in which the release code includes a licence number; and in which there is further included a certificate of authenticity generator arranged to generate a certificate of authenticity including at least one of the licence number ~~or~~ and the customer's name, ~~or both~~.

Claim 29 (Currently Amended): A system Apparatus as claimed in claim 26 in which the media generator is arranged to include a user-defined personalisation applied to at least one of ~~on~~ the surface of the media, ~~or within~~ and the digitized information stored on the media.

Claim 30 (Currently Amended): A system Apparatus as claimed in claim 26 in which the media generator includes at least one of a CD writer ~~or~~ and a DVD writer.

Claim 31 (Currently Amended): A system Apparatus as claimed in claim 30 in which the release code includes a licence number, and in which the media generator includes a printer arranged to print onto a surface of a CD at least one of the licence number ~~or~~ and the customer's name.

Claims 32-49 (Canceled)

Claim 50 (Currently Amended): A method of distribution of digitized information on demand comprising:

(a) receiving, at a point of sale for software products including electronically-readable media carrying said digitized information, a request from a customer for a said software

product, wherein said electronically-readable media ~~containing~~ contains customer-selected information, and issuing a product release request;

(b) ~~either before or after receipt of the request~~, obtaining a unique release code electronically that is issued from a remote licensing control centre in response to the product release request; and

(c) at a local media generator, storing on the electronically-readable media the customer-selected information, ~~along with~~ and the release code, for supply to the customer.

Claim 51 (Previously Presented): A method as claimed in claim 50 in which the release code is associated with the customer.

Claim 52 (Previously Presented): A method as claimed in claim 50 in which the media includes packaging; the release code includes a licence number; and in with the licence number is printed onto the packaging.

Claim 53 (Previously Presented): A method as claimed in claim 52 in which the customer's name is printed onto the packaging.

Claim 54 (Previously Presented): A method as claimed in claim 50 in which the release code is electronically stored on the media along with the customer-selected information.

Claim 55 (Previously Presented): A method as claimed in claim 54 in which the information representative of the customer is electronically stored on the media.

Claim 56 (Previously Presented): A method as claimed in claim 50 in which the media is a CD or a DVD; the release code includes a licence number; and in which the licence number is printed onto the surface of the CD or DVD.

Claim 57 (Previously Presented): A method as claimed in claim 56 in which the customer's name is printed onto the surface of the CD.

Claim 58 (Previously Presented): A method as claimed in claim 50 including producing a certificate of authenticity at the point of sale containing the release code.

Claim 59 (Previously Presented): A method as claimed in claim 58 including adding the customer's name to the certificate of authenticity.

Claim 60 (Previously Presented): A method as claimed in claim 50 including receiving from the customer at the point of sale a user-defined media personalisation, and adding the personalisation to the media.

Claim 61 (Previously Presented): A method as claimed in claim 60 in which the media includes packaging, and in which the personalisation is printed onto the packaging.

Claim 62 (Previously Presented): A method as claimed in claim 60 in which the personalisation is electronically stored on the media along with the customer-selected information.

Claim 63 (Previously Presented): A method as claimed in claim 50 in which the release code is issued at the licensing control centre and is sent electronically to the point of sale on receipt of the customer request.

Claim 64 (Previously Presented): A method as claimed in claim 50 further including storing at the point of sale a plurality of customer requests, receiving at the licensing control centre the plurality of customer requests; and issuing from the licensing control centre and sending to the point of sale a plurality of release codes in response to the plurality of customer requests.

Claim 65 (Previously Presented): A method as claimed in claim 50 in which a plurality of release codes is issued at the licensing control centre and transmitted electronically in advance to the point of sale, one of the said release codes being associated with the customer on receipt of the customer request.

Claim 66 (Previously Presented): A method as claimed in claim 50 including keeping a cumulative record at the point of sale of all supplied media and associated release codes, and forwarding the record electronically to the licensing control centre.

Claim 67 (Previously Presented): A method as claimed in claim 50 in which the customer request is made by a customer not physically present at the point of sale.

Claim 68 (Previously Presented): A method as claimed in claim 50 in which the customer request is made by a customer not physically present at the point of sale, via a communications medium, with the media being prepared at the point of sale for later collection by or delivery to the customer.

Claim 69 (Previously Presented): A method as claimed in claim 50 further including receiving a request from the customer for a student sale, the request including a student number; validating the student number with reference to a representation of valid student numbers; and authorising the student sale depending upon the validation.

Claim 70 (Previously Presented): A method as claimed in claim 50 further including receiving a request from the customer for an upgrade sale, the request including a previous licence number; validating the previous licence number with reference to a representation of valid previous licence numbers; and authorising the upgrade sale depending upon the validation.

Claim 71 (Previously Presented): A method as claimed in claim 50 further including storing a code at the point of sale or at the licensing control centre; and precoding the media with the code before storage of the customer selected information.

Claim 72 (Previously Presented): A method as claimed in claim 71 in which the code is unique to the fulfillment unit.

Claim 73 (Previously Presented): A method as claimed in claim 50 further including receiving from the customer a request including a user-defined selection of products; and storing at the point of sale the request for user-defined selection of products for access by the customer.

Claim 74 (Previously Presented): A method as claimed in claim 73 in which the user-defined selection of products comprises a gift list.

Claim 75 (Previously Presented): A method as claimed in claim 73 in which the user-defined selection of products comprises a list compiled by an educational establishment.